

VZCZCXRO7444  
PP RUEHAG  
DE RUEHKL #1227 1840730  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 030730Z JUL 06  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7027  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 2451  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0146  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 0037  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2120  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 0187  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 1508  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0264  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0646  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0167  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0369  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0155  
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 0293  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 3893  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2205  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY 0023  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 0107  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 0102  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0214

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 001227

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [PINS](#) [CE](#) [MY](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: MALAYSIA CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF  
JOINING CONTACT GROUPS

REF: A. STATE 107231

[1](#)B. KUALA LUMPUR 1092

[1](#)C. STATE 94541

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i, David Shear  
for reasons 1.4 b and d.

[1](#)1. (C) MFA Principal Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs Nik Mustafa Kamal Nik Ahmad told us July 3 that Malaysia was still considering whether to join contact groups on Tiger financing and weapons procurement. Nik Mustafa frankly admitted that the decision would be politically difficult, given the large ethnic Tamil community in Malaysia. He said that other agencies and ministries were currently providing feedback to the MFA on the proposal to join the contact groups, and that further study would be needed. He noted that the Malaysian Ministry of Defense was in favor of joining the contact group on arms procurement. With regard to other contact group membership, Nik Mustafa recommended the inclusion of Thailand in both groups, but admitted that Malaysia had better reason than Thailand to join the group on financing.

[1](#)2. (C) Nik Mustafa said that if Malaysia did join the contact groups, it would be unlikely to take a "very active role." He revealed that during Malaysia-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meetings held in Colombo June 19-26, the Sri Lankan government had passed intelligence information regarding Tiger "fund gathering" in Malaysia. Nik Mustafa said that the GOM was "taking action on the quiet side" to shut off this activity. He characterized Malaysian cooperation with Sri Lanka in this regard to be analogous to Malaysian-Indonesian cooperation in combating JI terrorists. Nik Mustafa was troubled by escalating violence in Sri Lanka, and said he understood that the government of Sri Lanka "must respond" to increasingly frequent and violent Tiger attacks.

¶3. (U) Note: Ethnic Tamils of Indian descent account for about 1.35m of the 1.8m ethnic Indian population of Malaysia (7.5% of the total Malaysian population of about 24m). There are also some 80,000 ethnic Tamils of Sri Lankan descent, who tend to be more prosperous than those of Indian descent.  
LAFLEUR